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CONCERNING

HELICONIUS CYDNO ABERRATION
"LARSENI" NIEPELT (NYMPHALIDAE)

AND ITS RELATION TO
HELICONIUS CYDNO BARINASSENSIS MASTERS

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NIEPELT (1916) DESCRIBED *Heliconius cydno* ab. "larseni" from a single male from Colombia. From his description and figure, his specimen is very close in appearance to *Heliconius cydno barinasensis* Masters (1972), described in a recent number of this journal. Niepelt's figure of "larseni" depicts a butterfly almost identical to *barinasensis* (figure 1) on the dorsal surface, except the white band on the hindwing is shifted to a position nearer the margin. In *barinasensis*, the black margin outside of the white band is as wide as the band itself; in the example of "larseni" it is only about half as wide as the white band. Another apparent distinction is that the white band extends into cell 2V in *barinasensis*, while in "larseni" it ends in cell Cu₂. The ventral hindwings are very distinct; *barinasensis* displaying a mirror image white band to that of the dorsal surface while "larseni" is immaculate of a white band with the ventral aspect almost identical to *Heliconius cydno perijaensis* Masters.

H. c. barinasensis was described from the Barinas slope of the Venezuelan Andes and there is a possibility that "larseni" could have also originated here, rather than Colombia, and represent an atypical example of the Barinas population. It seems more likely to me, however, that the true origin of "larseni" is the Magdalena region of Colombia.



Fig. 1.—*Heliconius cydno barinasensis* Masters, paratype male, 1000 meters, Barinitas to Santo Domingo Road, Barinas, Venezuela, 5 February 1968, leg: J. H. Masters. A: dorsal aspect. B: ventral aspect. Natural scale.

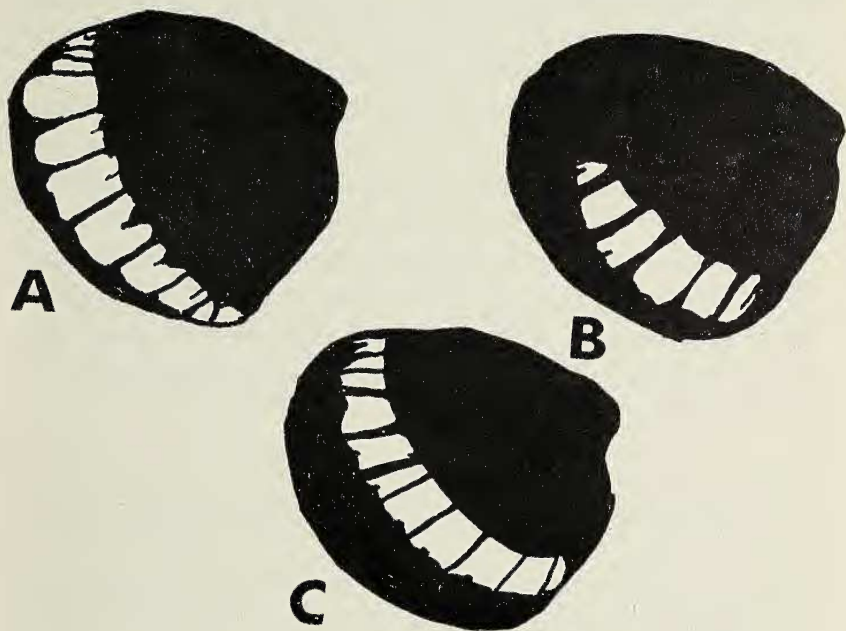


Fig. 2.—Representations of dorsal hindwing patterns of described forms of *Heliconius cydno*. A: *H. c. cydno* Doubleday & Hewitson. B: *H. c.* ab. "larseni" Niepelt. C: *H. c. barinasensis* Masters.

In either case, I don't consider "larseni" available for use as a species-group name under the provisions of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature Adopted by the XV International Congress of Zoology. The Code (article 1; article 45 (d) (iii); and glossary: definition of the term infrasubspecific) provides that all names given to aberrations as such, transition forms as such, seasonal forms, wet and dry forms, color forms, sexual forms, generation forms as such, and similar forms are excluded from the species-group names and are unavailable. "Larseni" was clearly described as an aberrant individual.

To facilitate comparison, photographic figures of *H. c. barinensis* (figure 1) are hereby provided to relate to Niepelt's figure of "larseni". Black and white representations of the dorsal hindwings (figure 2), clearly show the distinctions discussed above.

LITERATURE CITED

- MASTERS, J. H., 1972. Notes on *Heliconius cydno* (Nymphalidae) in Venezuela with descriptions for two new subspecies. *Jour. Res. Lepid.*, 10: in press.
- NIEPELT, W., 1916. in Strand, E., *Lepidoptera Niepeltiana*. Abbildungen und beschreibungen neuer und wenig bekannter lepidoptera aus der sammlung W. Niepelt, Volume 2, Druck von Urban & Co., Leipzig.